**10/18/15 “Know the enemy”**

Ephesians 6:12

1. Introduction
	1. Singular Purpose of the church= Making Disciples and how the mission of Ebenezer is to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ one person at a time.
	2. Mantra at Ebenezer is Whatever it Takes, of course that is in relation to our mission of Making Disciples
	3. In the spirit of whatever it takes, I physically put on the armor last week to demonstrate the spiritual principle of putting on the armor of God as we do battle each day
	4. This week I am not going to dress up, but we are going to continue our discussion on Spiritual Warfare
2. Last week= “Prepare for Battle”, This week “Know the enemy”
	1. Spiritual Warfare

Ephesians 6: 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 3For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

* 1. I used to think it was far out, it really didn’t happen, it was in another dimension
	2. Very Important that Christians understand that it is real
	3. Example
		1. I Chron. 21:1 Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel.
		2. Acts 5:3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?
		3. Personal Example
1. Things to know, after we understand that it does exists
	1. Know the Enemy! (Importance of word)
		1. Not
			1. flesh and blood
				1. Paul knew about enemies of flesh and blood
				2. 2 Cor. 11- Imprisoned, beatings, stoned, shipwrecked, danger, hunger and thirst, exposure etc.

2 Cor. 11:23-28 23Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. 24Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. 25Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; 26on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; 27in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. 28And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches

* + - * 1. Not people-Bosses, Coworkers, Family(Doesn’t mean they can’t be used by the enemy)

Titus 3:1-2 1Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, 2to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

Romans 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

* + - * 1. Don’t have to like what they do or always agree
				2. Jesus said love your enemies (Flesh and blood or People)

Luke 6:35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

* + 1. Who (is v.12 referring to?)
			1. Satan
				1. David, Peter/Ananais
				2. David and Bathsheba: David’s sin didn’t come from the enemy that was his, but the temptation did come from the enemy.
				3. Job

1:6-12 6Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. 7The Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” 8And the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?” 9Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? 10Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.” 12And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

Hebrew word translated here for Satan can also mean Accuser or Adversary

* + - 1. Formable Opponent
				1. Not flesh and blood more powerful
				2. Not dealing with mere humans
				3. 1 Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour
				4. Comes to kill and destroy, Jesus in. . . .

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

* + - 1. Us
				1. Pogo comic strip quote=We’ve seen the enemy and he is us

Sometimes we are our own worst enemies

Sometimes we are used by the enemy

* + - * 1. The struggle is within not without

Where the battle begins

* + - * 1. Peter- Get behind me Satan
				2. Don’t allow Enemy to use you= Wed. night Discipleship Group
	1. Understand that there are Causalities in War
		1. We are going to lose some in battle and we are going to suffer loss
			1. Jesus
				1. Fed 3,000 and 5,000 they were following him
				2. Whole City came on Palm Sunday to welcome him into Jerusalem
				3. Week later, not one left after his crucifixion, not the 12, not the inner 3 (Peter, James, John)

Scattered

John didn’t go to the tomb and wait for him to come out

* + - * 1. Even after they came back together there were only 120 in upper room on day of Pentecost
				2. The church is going to suffer loss
		1. Losses Hurt
			1. Not fun, no sugar coating, I hate getting beat
				1. Personal, Corporate-Church
				2. Sometimes it gets worse before it gets Better
			2. FIDO= Forget it and drive on
	1. Know that the Stakes are High
		1. I believe in Hell just as much as I believe in Heaven
			1. No prosperity gospel
			2. Because Jesus said it

Luke 13:22-28 22 He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. 23And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, 24“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ 26Then you will begin to say,‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ 27But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’28In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, . . . . . .

* + 1. Consequences are Eternal
			1. Losing at sports hurt= UGA, but aren’t eternal
			2. Eternal=Forever
			3. Reference Luke 13 Above
			4. Reason I’m so passionate
			5. I don’t want any I know to suffer

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

1. Close
	1. Overwhelming
		1. Opponent is Large
		2. Stakes are High
		3. Consequences are eternal
	2. With Jesus there is always hope

Ephesians 2:12-19 12remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

* 1. With us it is impossible, with God all things possible

Matthew 19:26 But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

* 1. We know the end result b/c of Revelation 21, Satan is defeated and thrown into the lake of fire.
	2. We are on the winning team
	3. We fight to bring for that One= Make Disciples one at a time